



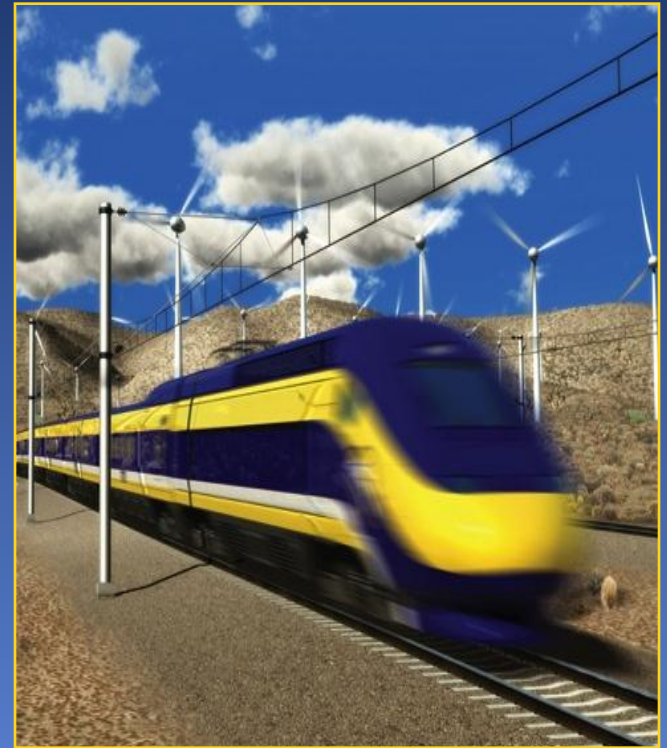
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE POLICY AND GUIDANCE

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

AUGUST 2, 2012

OVERVIEW

- The Environmental Justice (EJ) Guidance is a supplement to the Authority's Title VI Program.
- The Authority vetted the proposed EJ Policy and Guidance with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The Authority has subsequently received FRA comment to include the DOT order, which has been incorporated in the EJ Guidance document.
- The adoption of the EJ Policy shall formalize the Authority's long standing efforts to address EJ matters in a comprehensive manner.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

“Environmental Justice” is the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and income with respect to the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and policies.


The Authority is committed to apply EJ to all its programs and other activities that are undertaken, funded or approved by the FRA that affect:

- Policy Decisions
 - System Planning
 - Project Development and Environmental Reviews under NEPA
 - Preliminary and Final Design Engineering
 - Right of Way
 - Construction, Operations and Maintenance
- 

PRINCIPLES


Implementation of environmental justice principles in how the Authority plans, designs and delivers the high-speed rail projects means that the Authority recognizes the potential social and environmental impacts that project activities may have on certain segments of the public.

There are three (3) fundamental environmental justice principles:

1. To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority and low-income populations.
 2. To ensure the full and fair participation by all affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
 3. To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low-income populations.
- 

GOALS


The Authority is committed to the following goals to achieve the principles:

1. Protect environmental quality and human health in all communities;
 2. Apply environmental and civil rights laws to achieve fair environmental protection;
 3. Promote and protect community members' rights to participate meaningfully in environmental decision-making that may affect them; and
 4. Promote full and fair opportunities for access to environmental benefits, and minimize activities that result in a disproportionate distribution of environmental burdens.
- 

POLICY


“The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) promotes Environmental Justice into its program, policies and activities to avoid, minimize or mitigate disproportionately high human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects on minority and low-income populations. It is the policy of the Authority to duly emphasize the fair and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the high-speed rail project planning, development, operations and maintenance. This policy directs the Authority to appropriately engage the public through public participation forums so that decisions are mitigated and reflects environmental justice for all communities. This commitment strives to inspire environmental justice and equal access.

The Authority shall develop and maintain an Environmental Justice Guidance in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Presidential Executive Order 12898 and California State law--Government Code Section 65040.12 et. seq. and Public Resources Code Section 71110 et. seq.”




GUIDANCE

The EJ Guidance will be administered by the designated Title VI Coordinator, Wendy Boykins. Ms. Boykins will be responsible to:

- Promote awareness of Environmental Justice.
 - Collect and review statistical data (minority and low-income) on participants in, and beneficiaries of the Authority's programs, activities and services.
 - Ensure policy directives include EJ requirements and program procedures have built-in safeguards to prevent EJ discrimination.
 - Coordinate the development and implementation of EJ training for Authority employees.
 - Conduct an annual compliance review on the Authority's program area activities, consultants, contractors, suppliers, and the Authority's subrecipients of federal financial assistance and provide the findings to the Authority's Finance and Audit Committee.
 - Assist program personnel to proactively implement EJ measures to ensure meaningful involvement from EJ populations.
 - Conduct prompt processing and resolution of EJ complaints.
- 


GUIDANCE ELEMENTS

The EJ Guidance consists of the following elements:

- Emphasis Programs
 - Self-Assessments
 - Environmental Justice Analysis
 - Incorporating EJ Principles into the NEPA Process
 - Promoting Inclusive Public Involvement
- 

BOARD REQUEST

The Authority recommends the Board take the following actions:

1. Approve the California High-Speed Rail Authority Environmental Justice Policy and authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to sign and widely disseminate.
 2. Adopt the EJ Guidance and authorize the CEO to transmit the EJ Policy and Guidance to the FRA.
- 

QUESTIONS



Thank You.